

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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R 031019Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6195
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 2079

LIMDIS

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PBOR, TU, GR, CY
SUBJ: GREECE AND TURKEY

1. TURKISH EMBOFF APR 27 GAVE US FOLLOWING INFO ON
CURRENT ISSUES.
2. SAID SOVIET CHIEF OF STAFF VISITING ANKARA
HAD MADE ATTRACTIVE OFFER OF MILITARY COOPERATION
TO DRAW TURKEY AWAY FROM CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH
US. SAID SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT
SALES INCLUDED OFFER FOR TURKISH CO-PRODUCTION.
HOWEVER, TURKS ARE CAUTIOUS; REALIZE COOPERATION
WITH SOVIETS INEVITABLY INVOLVES POLITICAL PRICE.
EMBOFF SAID TOP TURKISH GENERALS WANT US ARMS
EMBARGO ENDED ASAP TO HEAD OFF RISING POLITICAL
PRESSURE TO DEAL WITH SOVIETS.
3. SAID TURKS RESENT INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES THEY
PERCEIV BEING CONDUCTED BY USNATO OFFICERS AT IZMIR
AIMED AT TESTING TURKEY'S ABILITY TO COPE WITH US
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EMBARGO; TURKS FEEL US TRYING TO SEE HOW MUCH
ADDITIONAL PRESSURE CAN BE APPLIED. STRESSED TURKS
ARE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO REACH SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS.
COULD UNDERSTAND INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY BY DATT IN
EMBASSY ANKARA AS PART HIS JOB, BUT NOT BY NATO
OFFICERS WHOSE MISSION SHOULD BE JOINT DEFENSE
COOPERATION.

4. NOTED TURKS ARE FOLLOWING CLOSELY US HEARINGS ON MILITARY SALES. SAID IT IS NOT IN GREEK GOVT INTEREST TO OPPOSE US SALES TO TURKEY; REITERATED THAT TURKS WOULD BE MORE FLEXIBLE ON CYPRUS AFTER SALES RESUMED. HOPED GREEK GOVT WOULD REFRAIN FROM ADDITIONAL EXPRESSIONS OPPOSITION TO RESUMED SALES. SAID GREEK CYPRIOTS COULD QUICKLY MOVE BACK INTO HOMES IN PRESENT NEUTRAL BUFFER ZONE ONCE SETTLEMENT REACHED.

5. RE ICJ HEARING IN EARLY OCT,
SAID TURKEY WILL NOT OPPOSE GREEKS ACTIVELY IN PUBLIC SESSIONS. HOWEVER, TURKS PLAN SUBMIT WRITTEN LETTER TO COURT ARGUING LACK OF ICJ JURISDICTION TO ARBITRATE. TURKISH EMBOFF WAS SOMEWHAT CONFIDENT ICJ WOULD RULE IN TURKEY'S FAVOR. SAID GREEK ARGUMENT IS ON SHAKY LEGAL GROUND BECAUSE UN ALREADY RECOGNIZED AEGEAN IS POLITICAL ISSUE THAT SHOULD BE SETTLED THROUGH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. BELIEVED SOVIET JUDGE WOULD BE SYMPATHETIC TO TURKISH POSITION AND SOVIET'S VIEW WOULD BE PERSUASIVE ON SEVERAL OTHER JUDGES. SAID ICJ HAS APPEARED RELATIVELY SYMPATHETIC TOTURKISH POSITION DESPITE DECISION TO HOLD HEARINGS. BELIEVED ICJ WOULD PROBABLY TRY TO REACH DECISION BY END 1978 BECAUSE SEVERAL JUDGES
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ARE DUE FOR REPLACEMENT BY THEN. WARNER

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